

Brook trout

Salvelinus fontinalis



Similar Species: Lake trout, splake

Identification: Dark greenish body with light markings, some spots can be red, back usually with wavy lines (vermiculation), lower fins with white edges, tail fin not deeply forked. (Lake trout has a deeply forked tail.)

Brook trout were native to the eastern U.S. and Canada. They have been introduced throughout the western U.S. and are found in most headwater reaches of Black Hills streams. This pretty little fish is the panfish of the trout family, as it actually matures and reproduces at lengths as small as 4 inches. As a result, brook trout commonly overpopulate and “stunt.” Brook trout prefer colder water than rainbow or brown trout and maintain their numbers in the Black Hills streams through natural reproduction. Any brook trout over 10 or 12 inches is considered a trophy fish in Black Hills streams. Brook trout are artificially hybridized with lake trout to create the splake, which is intermediate in size between the two parent species.

